

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE/RACHRISTENSEN/MJ

APPROVED BY EUR - JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE - NGANDREWS

EB/TT/MA - RBANK

COMMERCE (MARAD) - RBOUDIN (SUBS)

DOT - RPIEPER (SUBS)

C -

SONNENFELDT S/S -

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EGEN, RO

SUBJECT: US-ROMANIAN MARITIME AGREEMENT

REF: BUCHAREST 2470; BUCHAREST DS-4, JUNE 27, L974

1. DEPARTMENT HAS STUDIED WITH INTEREST THE ROMANIAN-ITALIAN MARITIME AGREEMENT AND THE DRAFT ROMANIAN AGREEMENT. USG POLICY CONTINUES, HOWEVER, TO OPPOSE BILATERAL MARITIME AGREEMENTS. ONLY ONE EXCEPTION (USSR) TO THIS POLICY HAS BEEN MADE AND THERE WERE SPECIAL DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO THIS EXCEPTION. SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT PRESENT IN THE CASE OF ROMANIA. USG BELIEVES THAT BILATERAL MARITIME PROBLEMS CAN BE SETTLED ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AS THEY ARISE. AT CURRENT AND FORESEEABLE LEVELS OF US-ROMANIAN SHIPPING, WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH PROCEDURES WILL PROVIDE REASONABLE BASIS FOR

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SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO GOR:

A) USG HAS READ WITH INTEREST TEXTS WHICH GOR HAS SUPPLIED.

B) USG POLICY DOES NOT FAVOR NEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL MARITIME AGREEMENTS AND HAS ONLY MADE RAREST OF EXCEPTION WHERE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND VOLUME OF MARITIME RELATIONS WARRANTED IT.

C) IN CONDUCT OF OUR MARITIME RELATIONS WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF STATES, WE HAVE FOUND THAT ISSUES CAN BE SETTLED

AS THEY ARISE OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF A FORMAL BILATERAL AGREEMENT.

D) IN THE CASE OF ROMANIA, WE HAVE FOUND THAT MERCHANT SHIPPING RELATIONS HAVE PROCEEDED QUITE SMOOTHLY IN THE ABSENCE OF A BILATERAL. WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, UNILATERALLY REDUCED REQUEST TIME FOR ROMANIAN VESSELS TO OBTAIN ENTRY TO US PORTS. (DURING THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE NEGOTIATED A FISHERIES AGREEMENT TO REGULATE THIS SPECIFIC AREA.)

E) WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR THE CURRENT NEEDS OF US-ROMANIAN SHIPPING. WE WILL BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE AS THE LEVEL OF SHIPPING GROWS. KISSINGER

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